

Bristol Oct 13th 1845-

My dear Friend

For many weeks I have had it in my mind to write & thank you for your last letter, that came with its gentle sympathy when my heart was painfully lacerated. Having had such deep experience in the sorrows of the heart as you have I feel that you will not need a letter of apologies for my remissness.

The first feelings of keen anguish consequent upon the loss of so many that were dear to my heart & coming as the strokes did one after another till culminated in the death of my dear husband, have borne down my spirit with sadness, that I have been scarce able to shake off.

The breaking up of home, the severing of all old ties the entire change of life & scene of action are past now, and again the cause of suffering humanity begins to press its claims upon me, and as it does so, the remembrance of those who have been laboring unceasingly in the various reforms of the day come up before me and again my sympathies

are drawn toward them with a deeper interest
than ever. Most of the summer past I

have lived entirely isolated from ~~the~~ Antislavery
friends & all reformers, by it I have learned that
(trying as it may be) I can stand alone by principle.
When my husband was taken from me I feared that as I
should have no one now to encourage or aid me I
might be tempted to quiet little by little to the
influences about me, but I find nothing so beautiful
as truth, and that is not found in compromise -

I am often with you in ^{spirit} your busy preparations
for the Fair, your spirit stirring call has aroused
the wish to contribute my mite to aid you
in the work. If circumstances would permit
I should be delighted to give my time to the cause
from now till Fair time either in Philadelphia
or Boston but duty seems to call me another
way. - I expect to leave here for

Sing Sing next week where I shall remain for some
weeks. I have been while in this place with
Gertrude Burleigh. You will ^{see} Charles & Gertrude
in Boston next month. By the way I must tell

the news that seems most interesting to his friends
here. Charles hair and beard have both been

cropt not close shaven and shorn of all his locks
like other men but about eight inches of his hair
is taken off & three or four from the beard

A decided improvement a little advance toward
a more correct taste in my opinion I should say.
Please remember me affectionately to your sisters and other
friends that still may remember me

Plus say to Mr Phillips that his letter was
most grateful to my wounded spirit.

The enclosed trifle I send to you knowing that
it will be doubled for the cause of the ~~freedom~~
in your hands.

Yours most affectionately &
truly Paulina L Knight



JS

Maria W Chapman
Boston
Ness

1845-